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Biennial Report
OF
The Eugenics Board
of North Carolina

July 1, 1938
To
June 30, 1940



R. EUGENE BROWN,
Secretary

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EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

MRS. W. T. BOST, Commissioner of Public Welfare, *Chairman*

HON. HARRY McMULLAN, Attorney General

DR. CARL V. REYNOLDS, Secretary and State Health Officer, State
Board of Health

DR. J. W. ASHBY, Superintendent, State Hospital, Raleigh

DR. F. L. WHELPLEY, Superintendent, State Hospital, Goldsboro

STAFF

R. EUGENE BROWN, *Secretary*

MARGARET RUNNION, *Office Secretary*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To His Excellency, CLYDE R. HOEY,
Governor of North Carolina.

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor of submitting herewith the report of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina for the biennial period dating from July 1, 1938, through June 30, 1940.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. W. T. BOST,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

TO

The Eugenics Board Of North Carolina

Sterilization operations performed in North Carolina under authorization of the Eugenics Board during the biennial period ended June 30, 1940 totaled 304. The Board authorized operations in 345 cases of 352 petitions presented for consideration during this period. In the 23 cases where written consent of the parent, guardian, or next of kin could not be secured, the parties concerned were given 15 days' notice of an opportunity to be heard by the Board. Persons appeared for hearings in only three cases. One case was postponed indefinitely; the second case was postponed indefinitely but later the operation was authorized when the case was presented as a consent case, the father of the patient giving his written consent; and action on the third case, which was considered at the last meeting of the biennial period, was continued until the July meeting.

The following table shows the number and type of operations performed under orders of the Eugenics Board during the past two years:

TOTAL NUMBER OF STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—BY TYPE OF OPERATION AND
ORIGIN OF PETITION—JULY 1, 1938 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1940

	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	Total
State Institution.....	63	2	109	1	175
County Institution.....	--	--	15	--	15
Non-Institution.....	15	3	96	--	114
Total.....	78	5	220	1	304

The North Carolina sterilization law provides for the sterilization of mentally diseased, epileptic and feeble-minded persons, when it is believed that such an operation would be for the best interests of the individual concerned, or for the public good or when it is believed that the individual would be likely, unless such operation is performed, "to procreate a child or children who would have a tendency to serious physical, mental, or nervous disease or deficiency."

Although the provisions of the Sterilization Act are compulsory in nature, an effort is made in every case to secure the consent and cooperation of the patient and the next of kin or guardian in every case by pointing out the protection provided by sterilization. If the case for sterilization is properly presented, the cooperation of the family can be secured in most instances. As the Human Betterment Foundation of Pasadena, California, has well stated:

1. Sterilization has one effect only—it prevents parenthood.
2. It is not a punishment; it is a protection and therefore carries no stigma or humiliation.
3. It in no way unsexes the party sterilized.
4. Sterilization is approved by the families and friends of the sterilized.
5. It is approved by the medical staff, probation officers, and social workers generally wherever they have come in contact with these patients.
6. It permits patients to return to their homes and friends who would otherwise be confined to institutions during the fertile period of life.
7. The records show that many moron girls paroled after sterilization have married and are happy and succeeding fairly well. They could never have managed and cared for children, to say nothing of the inheritance and fate of such children.
8. Homes are kept together by sterilization of husband and wife in many mild cases of mental disease, thus removing the dread by the normal spouse of the procreation of a defective child and permitting normal marital companionship.
9. The operation is comparatively simple. Under conservative laws, sanely and diplomatically administered, sterilization offers to the mentally diseased, mentally defective and their families great relief and great protection to the defenseless child of the future.

The following table shows the number of cases handled by the Board during the past biennial period in comparison with previous periods:

	Cases Presented	Operations Authorized	Operations Performed
July 1, 1933-June 30, 1934	39	39	31
July 1, 1934-June 30, 1936	309	301	252
July 1, 1936-June 30, 1938	356	350	296
July 1, 1938-June 30, 1940	352	345	305

The members of the Eugenics Board have considered each case presented individually, proceeding cautiously in order to establish a sound basis in policy and procedure for the sterilization program in North Carolina. It is believed that the heads of institutions and the superintendents of public welfare who have presented petitions for sterilization and the physicians who have made examinations and recommendations have given these cases thorough consideration.

The magnitude of the problems of feeble-mindedness and mental disease in the State indicates, however, that sterilization must be done on a much larger scale if the program is to become effective.

On December 31, 1939 North Carolina ranked fifth among the states with regard to the total number of sterilization operations performed, but with regard to the number of sterilizations performed per 100,000 population North Carolina ranked seventeenth. Under statutory provisions Delaware had 245 sterilizations per 100,000 population; California, 242; while North Carolina had only 28 sterilizations per 100,000 population. The complete list may be seen in this report on page 13.

Eugenical Sterilization in the United States, with Particular Attention to a Follow-Up Study of Non-Institutional Cases in North Carolina, April 5, 1933 to January 1, 1939 was recently completed as a thesis for a master's degree at the University of North Carolina by Miss Eleanor Welborn.

Some of the principal conclusions of Miss Welborn's comparative study are as follows:

"1. Thirty and five-tenths percent of the sterilized patients in North Carolina who were single prior to sterilization married subsequent to sterilization as compared with 11.6% of the single patients in South Dakota and 28.3% of the single patients in Minnesota. California's statistics on this subject were not in comparable form. These figures indicate that North Carolina has a higher proportion of patients, single at the time of their sterilization who have married following the operation. The marriage rate of single males was much lower in all the above-named states than the marriage rate of the single females.

"2. Forty-three and nine-tenths per cent of the North Carolina patients thought that they were better off for having been sterilized as compared with 53.2% of the patients in South Dakota and 22% of the patients in California; 14.8% of the patients in North Carolina were dissatisfied with the results of

the operation, 8% of the patients in South Dakota and 3.2% of the patients in California; 7.1% of the North Carolina patients were indifferent to the operation, as compared with 10% of the South Dakota patients and 3.7% of the patients in California. The attitudes of 27.7% of the patients in North Carolina were unrecorded, while 28.8% of the attitudes of the South Dakota patients and 71.1% of the attitudes of the patients in California were unrecorded. Since a majority of the attitudes of the patients in California were unrecorded a second comparison was made in which the unrecorded attitudes of sterilized patients in the named states were not included. According to this calculation 66.6% of the sterilized patients in North Carolina thought they were better off as compared with 74.7% of the patients in South Dakota and 76.3% of the patients in California, 22.6% of the patients in North Carolina were dissatisfied with the results of the operation, 11.3% of the South Dakota patients and 11% of the patients in California; 10.8% of the patients in North Carolina were indifferent to the operation as compared with 14% of the patients in South Dakota and 12.7% of the California patients. No data on the attitudes of the parents or spouses of the sterilized patients in these respective states was in a form which permitted any comparison in findings to be made.

"3. A tabulation of the change in libido of the North Carolina patients following sterilization was not specifically made; however, 1.9% of the patients stated that the reason they were dissatisfied with the results of sterilization was because it had affected their response for their husbands. California reports that 7.4% of the patients had a decrease in libido following sterilization, 72.2% no change and 20.4% an increase in libido. None of the patients in South Dakota were known to have had any change in libido subsequent to sterilization. There is a definite need for extensive research on this aspect of sterilization.

"4. The ratio of patients who were known to have been sexually delinquent prior to sterilization compared with the patients who were known to have been sexually delinquent afterwards was 2.4 to 1 in North Carolina, 6.7 to 1 in South Dakota, 5.3 to 1 in Minnesota and 9 to 1 in California. It is apparent that the reduction of known sexual delinquencies following sterilization was much lower in North Carolina than in any of the other states.

"5. Twenty-two and six-tenths per cent of the patients in North Carolina were known to have venereal disease prior to

sterilization as compared with 1.9% of the patients in South Dakota. After the operation 10.3% of the North Carolina patients were known to have venereal disease as contrasted with .9% of the patients in South Dakota. Apparently venereal disease is more prevalent both before and after the operation in the patients of North Carolina than in the patients of South Dakota.

"6. Sixty-five per cent of the sterilizing operations in North Carolina were performed with the written consent of either the patient or his next of kin or legal guardian. Fifty-eight per cent of the sterilizations in South Dakota were performed with the consent of relatives or the guardian of the patient. It is evident that a greater proportion of the patients in North Carolina are cooperating with the sterilization program of that state.

"7. The male patients in North Carolina were sterilized at the average age of 19.9 years, in South Dakota at 21.6 years and in California 19.9 years. The female patients in North Carolina were operated upon at the average age of 19.6 years, in South Dakota at 19.3 years and in California at 21.9 years. There is little variance in these figures. The sterilization programs of the states named above are effective therefore, in reaching patients at an age level when procreation is most likely.

"8. The average expense of a sterilizing operation on males in private and state hospitals of North Carolina was \$21.40 as compared with \$25 in the private hospitals of South Dakota and \$22.82 in state hospitals of South Dakota. The average cost of a sterilizing operation on females in private and state hospitals in North Carolina was \$38.15 in comparison with \$95 in private hospitals of South Dakota and \$22.82 in state hospitals in South Dakota.

"9. The feeble-minded patients who were sterilized in North Carolina had an average I. Q. of 58.3, the patients of South Dakota averaged an I. Q. of 57.6, New Hampshire patients 58 and California patients 60. These figures indicate a surprising similarity in the I. Q. level of sterilized patients of the four states named.

"10. Of eight deaths of sterilized females in North Carolina three of them were due to intestinal obstruction and several living patients stated that they had health or sexual problems which they believed were the result of their previous sterilization. Medical research is necessary to determine whether there is any specific relationship between sterilization and intestinal trouble other than that which exists with all intra-abdominal operations."

EXPENDITURES

	Fiscal Year 1938-1939	Fiscal Year 1939-1940
1. Salaries	\$1,590.00	\$1,260.00
2. Supplies and materials.....	25.00	40.00
3. Equipment	93.00	55.00
4. Postage	7.00	85.00
5. Printing forms, etc.	11.00	39.00
6. Printing bulletins and reports ..	47.00	
7. Telephone and telegrams	7.00	10.00
8. Subscriptions and dues	6.00	5.00
Total.....	\$1,786.00	\$1,494.00

TABLE 1

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS BY STATES PER 100,000 POPULATION THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 1939

	Operations Performed Since Law Was Enacted	Operations Performed During 1939
1. Delaware.....	245	10.1
2. California.....	242	14.
3. Oregon.....	146	8.7
4. Virginia.....	143	8.1
5. Kansas.....	116	7.
6. New Hampshire.....	85	3.7
7. South Dakota.....	76	10.2
8. North Dakota.....	70	5.
9. Minnesota.....	69	5.3
10. Vermont.....	54	3.9
11. Utah.....	44	7.3
12. Michigan.....	42	1.9
13. Wisconsin.....	36	1.8
14. Washington.....	36	6.5
15. Montana.....	34	8.4
16. Indiana.....	28	3.3
17. North Carolina.....	27	4.4
18. Nebraska.....	27	1.6
19. Connecticut.....	25	.3
20. Mississippi.....	25	3.0
21. Maine.....	21	2.5
22. Oklahoma.....	18	2.5
23. Iowa.....	8.8	1.1
24. Alabama.....	8.5	---
25. Arizona.....	4.6	---
26. Idaho.....	3.1	---
27. West Virginia.....	2.5	.7
28. Georgia.....	2.	2.
29. South Carolina.....	1.4	.7
30. New York.....	.3	---

TABLE 2
NUMBER OF CASES PRESENTED TO THE EUGENICS BOARD

	Cases Pending at Beginning of Period	New Cases	Operations Ordered	Declined or Action Postponed	Cases Pending at End of Period
Cases Considered by Board of Reviewers Under 1929 Law.					
1929-1932.....	--	65	57	8	--
Cases Considered by Eugenics Board Under 1933 Law.					
1933.....	--	13	13	--	--
1934.....	--	97	96	1	--
1935.....	--	191	187	4	--
1936.....	--	118	115	3	--
1937.....	--	167	163	2	2
1938.....	2	217	213	5	1
1939.....	1	165	162	4	--
1940 through June.....	--	87	86	--	1
Total.....		1,120	1,092	27	

TABLE 3
EUGENIC STERILIZATION OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN NORTH CAROLINA 1929 TO
JUNE 30, 1940

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	1	1	--	1	3
1930.....	--	2	10	5	17
1931.....	--	--	10	1	11
1932.....	--	9	7	2	18
1933.....	1	--	3	--	4
1934.....	7	8	45	1	61
1935.....	17	7	152	2	178
1936.....	11	1	86	--	98
1937.....	18	3	105	2	128
1938.....	53	3	144	2	202
1939.....	34	2	102	--	138
1940 to June 30.....	23	1	50	--	74
Grand Total.....	165	37	714	16	932
State Institutional Cases.....	133	28	390	7	558
County Institutional Cases.....	--	3	39	3	45
Non-Institutional Cases.....	32	6	285	6	329

TABLE 4

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	--	--	--	--	--
1930.....	--	1	4	4	9
1931.....	--	--	3	--	3
1932.....	--	9	5	1	15
1933.....	1	--	1	--	2
1934.....	5	8	31	1	45
1935.....	9	6	67	--	82
1936.....	10	--	46	--	56
1937.....	15	1	66	--	82
1938.....	48	2	101	1	152
1939.....	28	1	41	--	70
1940 to June 30.....	17	--	25	--	42
Total.....	133	28	390	7	558

TABLE 5

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—COUNTY INSTITUTIONS

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	--	1	--	1	2
1930.....	--	1	2	--	3
1931.....	--	--	3	1	4
1932.....	--	--	--	--	--
1933.....	--	--	--	--	--
1934.....	--	--	1	--	1
1935.....	--	1	10	--	11
1936.....	--	--	5	--	5
1937.....	--	--	3	1	4
1938.....	--	--	2	--	2
1939.....	--	--	9	--	9
1940 to June 30.....	--	--	4	--	4
Total.....	--	3	39	3	45

TABLE 6
STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—NON-INSTITUTIONAL

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929	1	--	--	--	1
1930	--	--	4	1	5
1931	--	--	4	--	4
1932	--	--	2	1	3
1933	--	--	2	--	2
1934	2	--	13	--	15
1935	8	--	75	2	85
1936	1	1	35	--	37
1937	3	2	36	1	42
1938	5	1	41	1	48
1939	6	1	52	--	59
1940 to June 30	6	1	21	--	28
Total	32	6	285	6	329

TABLE 7

AGE, SEX AND TYPE OF OPERATION OF PERSONS STERILIZED AND ASEXUALIZED IN
NORTH CAROLINA 1929 TO JUNE 30, 1940

AGE	Vasectomy	Castration	Total Males	Salpin- gectomy	Ovari- ectomy	Total Females	Total
10-19*	52	12	64	393	10	403	467
20-29	65	15	80	209	3	212	292
30-39	38	8	46	105	3	108	154
40-49	7	1	8	7	--	7	15
Over 49	3	--	3	--	--	--	3
Unknown	--	1	1	--	--	--	1
Total	165	37	202	714	16	730	932

*Of the 467 cases in this group 29 were under 14—one age 9, one age 10, three age 11, nine age 12, and fifteen age 13.

TABLE 8

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS—BY INSTITUTION AND TYPE OF
OPERATION 1929 TO JUNE 30, 1940

INSTITUTION	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
Caswell Training School.....	18	1	49	--	68
Eastern Carolina Training School....	1	--	--	--	1
Samarcaud Manor.....	--	--	111	4	115
State Farm Colony for Women.....	--	--	9	--	9
State Hospital at Goldsboro.....	85	20	38	--	143
State Hospital at Morganton.....	2	--	2	1	5
State Hospital at Raleigh.....	27	7	181	2	217
Total.....	133	28	390	7	558

TABLE 9

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS WITH REFERENCE TO TYPE OF OPERATION AND RACE
1929 TO JUNE 30, 1940

TYPE OF OPERATION	White	Negro	Total
Vasectomy.....	74	91	165
Castration.....	14	23	37
Salpingectomy.....	628	86	714
Ovariectomy.....	15	1	16
Total.....	731	201	932

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF STERILIZATION CASES WITH REFERENCE TO MENTAL DEFECT,
ORIGIN OF PETITION AND MARITAL STATUS—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1940

MENTAL DEFECT AS SHOWN IN PETITION FOR STERILIZATION	ORIGIN OF PETITION			Total	MARITAL STATUS		
	Non- Inst.	County Inst.	State Inst.		Married	Single	Widowed, Divorced, or Separated
Cerebral Syphilis with Mental Deficiency.....	--	--	1	1	--	1	--
Cerebral Arteriosclerosis.....	--	--	1	1	1	--	--
Congenital Cerebral Syphilis.....	--	--	1	1	1	--	--
Dementia Praecox.....	3	--	77	80	35	41	4
Manic Depressive Psychosis.....	1	--	77	78	36	36	6
Psychosis with Cerebral Syphilis.....	--	--	1	1	1	--	--
Psychosis with Constitutional Inferiority.....	--	--	1	1	--	1	--
Psychosis with Epidemic Encephalitis.....	--	--	1	1	--	1	--
Psychosis with Hereditary Syphilis.....	--	--	1	1	--	1	--
Psychosis with Mental Deficiency.....	1	--	35	36	5	29	2
Psychosis with Syphilis.....	--	--	7	7	4	2	1
Psychosis Undiagnosed.....	1	1	9	11	9	2	--
Psychopathic Personality.....	2	--	10	12	2	10	--
Epilepsy.....	8	--	76	84	27	56	1
Epilepsy with Mental Deficiency.....	10	3	26	39	4	33	2
Epilepsy with Psychosis.....	2	--	7	9	2	7	--
Feeble-mindedness.....	301	41	227	569	52	493	24
Total.....	329	45	558	932	179	713	40

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Eugenical sterilization in
North Carolina

